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Liberty Sport Riding Glasses

by Paul H. Smith

Liberty Sport has been in the performance eyewear business for more than 80 years, and claims to have been the first to offer prescription sport glasses more than 30 years ago—meeting or exceeding U.S. impact protection standards. They also pass all *Global Driving Standards* along with 100% UVA and UVB protection, and other premium coatings, including transitions.

Why prescription Rx riding glasses? If you're not already using them, think lightweight, tough, vibration-resistant, and cushion-fitting comfort. Also think sun protection, wider field of vision, and impact resistance.

Liberty Sport has several offerings for motorcyclists, as well as some noteworthy innovations that piqued our curiosity. We tested a couple different designs: The "Chopper 2" and "Rider Dry Eye." Of the two, the "Rider Dry Eye" is perhaps the most innovative. These glasses double as goggles with detachable eyecups and built-in vents around each eyecup perimeter that are, interestingly, held in place by tiny powerful magnets. I tested this design at Death Valley on hot, windy days, complete with sandstorm-like conditions. Make no mistake, this was a "perfect" environment for the test. The eyecups were a remarkable improvement over most anything other than bulky dedicated goggles. At no time did sand particles get into my eyes, and there was zero fogging. When not on the road, this design doubles as regular eyewear, so you can easily pull off and store the magnetically attached eyecups. In fact, I didn't bring my normal eyeglasses because the *Libertys* were so comfortable and versatile.

The "Chopper 2" is a little lighter, more formfitting, and also has its own variation on the eyecups. Instead of wrapping the eye area, they sit outwards by the hinges—do-



ing an outstanding job of stabilizing the glasses, especially noticeable on bumpy road conditions. There's a tendency to slightly restrict far peripheral vision, though. Like the "Rider Dry Eye" versions, the magnetically attached eyecups can be easily detached.

Liberty Sport glasses are available in clear, or with various colors and coatings, including transitional and *Fogblok* anti-fog. Prescription lenses are available for a nominal extra charge. **MSRP:** Chopper 2—\$139, Rider Dry Eye—\$149 (prescriptions are additional) **LibertySport.com**

PROS

-  Lightweight and rugged construction
-  Designed for motorcycling
-  Innovative magnetic components

CONS

-  Partial peripheral vision block on "Chopper 2"
-  The "Rider Dry Eye" model may not fit some helmet types or sizes